

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 10205

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, RP

SUBJECT: CHURCH TASK FORCE ON DETAINEES ALLEGES INCREASING
TORTURE IN MANILA

1. SUMMARY. A RECENTLY RELEASED CHURCH REPORT ALLEGES A
RISE IN GREATER MANILA TORTURE CASES IN APRIL AND MAY.
WHILE WE HAVE NO VERIFICATION, IT IS CREDIBLE THAT THERE
WAS AN INCREASED INCIDENCE OF SUCH CASES DURING THE POST-
ELECTION NERVOUSNESS AND PRIOR TO CURRENT GOP EFFORTS TOWARD
RECONCILIATION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED A COPY OF JUNE 7 RELEASE BY
CHURCH TASK FORCE ON DETAINEES (TFD) ENTITLED: "TORTURE
INCREASING: A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE RECENT INCREASING
INCIDENCE OF TORTURE IN THE GREATER MANILA AREA (APRIL-MAY
1978)." NINE-PAGE TFD REPORT WAS CITED IN AP DESPATCH A FEW
DAYS AGO AND IS PROBABLY BEING CURRENTLY DISTRIBUTED IN THE
U.S. REPORT NOTES THAT FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF THE 600
APRIL 9 PROTEST MARCHERS, A NUMBER OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN
WERE ARRESTED FOR ACTS RELATED TO THE ELECTIDN CAMPAIGN AND
ITS AFTERMATH. MANY OF THOSE ARRESTED, REPORT ALLEGES, WERE
MALTREATED AND A NUMBER TORTURED, SOME GRAVELY. REPORT
PINPOINTS METROCOM'S MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY
GROUP (MISG) AS THE MAIN PERPETRATOR OF TORTURE OF THESE
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NEW DETAINEES AND IDENTIFIES THREE KEY OFFICERS INVOLVED IN
THESE TORTURE CASES: FIRST LT. DENCIO LAURICO, SECOND LT
PACIS, AND CIC PAT ORDONA. THE LATTER IS SAID TO HAVE
FIGURED IN A NUMBER OF TORTURE CASES SINCE 1973 INCLUDING
THAT OF TRINIDAD HERRERA LAST YEAR.

3. TFD REPORT THEN GOES ON TO GRAPHICALLY DETAIL ALLEGED

TORTURE (ELECTRIC SHOCK, WATER CURE, BEATINGS, ETC.) SUFFERED BY SIX YOUNG FILIPINOS ARRESTED IN METRO MANILA IN MAY. REPORT CONCLUDES THAT WHILE IT SEEMED FOR A WHILE THAT THE INCIDENCE OF TORTURE IN GREATER MANILA HAD DECLINED SOMEWHAT SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS REPORTS IN SEPTEMBER 1976 AND AUGUST 1977, RESPECTIVELY) THE RECENT CASES "DEMONSTRATE THAT INCIDENCES OF TORTURE ARE AGAIN ON THE INCREASE."

4. COPY OF TFD REPORT BEING POUCHED TO EA/PHL.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION OF THESE PARTICULAR ALLEGED TORTURE INCIDENTS. IT IS CREDIBL HOWEVER THAT THERE WAS A RISE IN THE INCIDENCE OF TORTURE CASES IN METRO MANILA DURING THE IMMEDIATE POST-ELECTION PERIOD OF GOP NERVOUSNESS AND PRIOR TO THE CURREN GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TOWARD NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. WE SPECULATE THAT THE SIX CASES CITED MAY BE RELATED TO ARRESTS IN CONNECTION WITH A PLANNED DEMONSTRATION AGAINST US EMBASSY AT TIME OF VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT (FIVE OF THE SIX WERE PICKED UP DURING FIRST WEEK OF MAY). MURPYY

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